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Letter dated 20 February 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 31 December 2001.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

02-25815 (E) 200202

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on KFOR operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 31 December 2001) there were approximately 38,500 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre.

2. The overall situation in Kosovo during the month of December remained relatively stable despite some reports of inter-ethnic tension, predominantly in the Mitrovica area, and of criminally motivated attacks throughout the province.

Security

3. KFOR continued to monitor any signs of support for terrorism. On 14 December, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and KFOR search facilities in Dakovica and Pristina used by the non-governmental organization Global Relief Foundation (GRF), detained three persons, and seized computers, disks, audio- and videotapes, papers and cash. This operation was coordinated with a similar search of GRF facilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

4. Incidents reported involving inter-ethnic violence included: disputes between Kosovar Serbs and KFOR troops who were escorting Kosovar Albanians visiting their former homes in the Mitrovica area — one KFOR soldier was injured; injury to a KFOR soldier in northern Mitrovica, when a grenade was thrown by a crowd protesting a search of the homes of Serbian activists; the evacuation by KFOR of a Kosovar Serb officer of the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) after being threatened by the "bridge watchers"; and different incidents in Vucitrn, Lipljan, and Mitrovica involving the stoning of Kosovar Serb buses by Kosovar Albanians.

5. Incidents which are believed to be related to criminal activities include: extensive damage to a café in Leposavic following a dispute between rival gangs of Kosovar Serbs; an explosive device attack on a Kosovar Albanian restaurant in Novi Koljlovica; a bomb attack on a shop in Prizren and a grenade attack on a petrol station near Klina, in which a total of four people were slightly injured; several incidents in central Kosovo involving firearms, in which a Kosovar Albanian died; the shooting of a former NLA commander; the murder of a Bosniac from Montenegro in Mitrovica in a drive-by shooting; and the discovery of the body of a suspected drug dealer in a car in Mitrovica.

Border/boundary security

6. KFOR continued its activities along the borders with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1] and with Albania to confiscate weapons, deter smuggling, detain persons illegally crossing the borders, and deter others attempting to enter the province.

7. During the reporting period, 189 weapons, 217 mines, and 12,891 rounds of ammunition were seized. Seventy-six people were detained and handed over to UNMIK police. The number of attempted illegal border crossings on the Albanian border increased over the reporting period. Although most were related to

[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

smuggling, some involved Albanians seeking food and supplies when their villages were cut off by bad weather.

Southern Serbia

8. With regard to the Air Safety Zone (ASZ), KFOR and the Commander of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Joint Security Forces agreed Temporary Operation Procedures following the North Atlantic Council's decision in August 2001 to relax the width of the ASZ from 25 kilometres to 10 kilometres.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

9. With regard to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), UNMIK and KFOR have rejected the latest version of the KPC Peace Establishment list delivered at the end of September 2001 because of the high number of discrepancies. Procedures have been agreed to create a new, valid Peace Establishment by the end of January 2002. Once the list has been confirmed by UNMIK, KFOR will register the KPC members and prepare new identity cards, on behalf of UNMIK.

10. Regarding the plan to reduce the KPC establishment, the first list of 375 names for transfer to a reserve force was submitted by General Ceku on 14 December: of these, 111 KPC members were considered unacceptable[2] and their names were removed from the list. The next steps to be taken will include a reduction in the KPC budget and a rationalization of the infrastructure. A comprehensive review of KPC weapons policy is nearing completion with the aim of reducing by Spring the number of weapons authorization cardholders. On 24 December, the following three policy documents dealing with the KPC were signed and released: COMKFOR Directive 035 (a general policy statement); a COMKFOR Training Directive; and a COMKFOR Directive to COMKPC.

11. During the period under review, four cases of non-compliance were reported, the most serious of which related to the suspension of the Press and Information Officer of Regional Tactical Group 4, who criticized UNMIK and KFOR following the arrest of the first Kosovar Albanian charged with war crimes. Eleven cases of non-compliance were closed, leaving 24 cases open, pending investigation, or implementation of recent Joint Security Forces directions, or awaiting presentation to the judicial system.

12. KFOR conducted a roll-call on 6 December 2001 at the six KPC locations to check on discrepancies and absenteeism. Absenteeism has increased to 10 per cent compared to 3.3 per cent reported six months earlier. The increase in absenteeism is being investigated by KFOR.

13. The total number of weapons destroyed under the weapons destruction programme remains at 10,132; the weapons destruction programme will resume in January 2002.

14. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia security forces remain in general compliance with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement.

[2] Reasons for non-acceptance: names unknown; members previously dismissed or removed.

Cooperation with international organizations

15. KFOR continues to provide daily assistance to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo, on request, and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

16. The number of refugees from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia estimated to be remaining in Kosovo has gone down from 23,200 reported in November to 16,360.

Kosovo-wide elections

17. As previously reported, KFOR provided support to UNMIK and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe during the Kosovo-wide elections held on 17 November. So far, the Kosovo Assembly has not been able to elect a Provincial President.

Introduction of the euro

18. Procedures for the introduction of the euro to replace the Deutschmark, due to be withdrawn in early 2002, began to be implemented with KFOR support at the beginning of December. KFOR helped with security aspects and storage of the currency.

Outlook

19. The security situation in Kosovo continues to be stable. Although ethnic tension still exists, particularly in Mitrovica, the level of violence has decreased across the province. Progress has been made on many fronts, however, including in establishing the judiciary, improving the environment, introducing the euro, and establishing the KPC reserve, but the formation of a governing coalition following the election of the Kosovo Assembly remains uncertain, largely due to political rivalries and manoeuvring within the ethnic Albanian parties.